



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMISSION
LANSING

(Approved)
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held December 15, 2006
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Morris, Chair
Michael Prince
Linda Scarpetta
Anne Corgan
F/Lt. Thad Peterson
Pamela Hall
Sheriff Al Byam
Chief David Stamm
John Friend

REPRESENTING

Office of the Governor
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)
Department of Community Health (MDCH)
Department of State (DOS)
Department of State Police (MSP)
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)
Local Representative – Michigan Sheriffs' Association
Local Representative – Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
Department of Transportation (MDOT)

STAFF

Deb Sonnenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dwight Sinila
Steven Puuri

Department of Education (MDE)
Local Representative – County Road Commission Association

ACTION TEAM CHAIRS

Steve Schreier Intersection Safety (handout in packet)
Dr. Jacqueline El-Sayed Commercial Vehicle Safety
Brian Zimmerman Work Zone Safety
Lisa Grost & Deirdre Thompson Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety

GUESTS

Brian Zimmerman
Sandy Liddle
Jack Peet
Pietro Semifero
Lawrence Hummel
Steve Schreier
Lisa Grost
Jim Culp
Gary Bubar
Kathy Farnum
Francois Dion
Jackie El-Sayed
Carol Reagan
Debbie Savage
Bob Lariviere
Dave Morena
Homer Smith
Anne Readett
Matt Bolger

REPRESENTING

MDOT
Financial & Insurance Services
AAA Michigan
OHSP
Van Buren County Road Commission
OHSP
MDCH
MDOT
AAA Michigan
OHSP
MSU
Kettering University & MTSC
MDOS
OHSP
AAA Michigan
FHWA
MADD
OHSP
MSP

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Community Health
Dwight Sinila, Education • Anne Corgan, State • F/Lt. Thad Peterson, State Police • John C. Friend, Transportation •
Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

1. The meeting was called to order by chair Robert Morris.
2. Roll call of GTSAC members was taken with a quorum present.
3. Mr. Morris introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Anne Corgan representing the Michigan Department of State.
4. **Public Comment/Announcement Items**
None

5. **Approval of October 27, 2006, Meeting Minutes**
Ron Wilson moved the minutes be accepted with one change indicated by Al Byam. Mike Prince seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

6 **Reports/Updates**

Chair Report – Robert Morris

Mr. Morris announced he was retiring from his position with the Department of Education to accept a position with SEMCOG. He expressed that his work with SEMCOG will keep him informed and involved and able to continue to promote traffic safety efforts and initiatives in new ways. He believes he will maintain his position as chair of this commission.

7 **GTSAC Commissioner Updates**

- **Community Health – Linda Scarpetta** provided the following written update in lieu of an oral presentation at the meeting.
 - Conducted two CPS Certification Renewal Courses (CRC) at the South Precinct of Lansing P.D. The CRC is a one-day course to re-certify individuals who have let their certification lapse.
 - Working together with OHSP to hold a one-day Child Passenger Safety workshop on the Monday before the Traffic Safety Summit (March 12). The intent of the day is to provide an opportunity for certified CPS technicians to earn the required CEU's under the new certification requirements for 2007. For more information on the new certification process, visit www.safekids.org/certification.
 - UMTRI has completed the direct observation studies of booster seat use in the two booster seat intervention communities. Preliminary results indicate a substantial increase in booster seat use. A full technical report will be prepared.
 - A Senate floor vote did not occur on the package of CPS Bills so the bills will be reintroduced in the new session.
 - Work continues with hospitals around the state to develop car seat discharge policies for newborns. (Currently: Bay Regional Medical Center in Bay City, South Haven Community Hospital, Mercy Memorial Hospital in Monroe, and Providence Hospital in Southfield)
 - MDCH will provide a report to CDC in January on the progress made since the Teen Driving Roundtable meeting in June. The Michigan team (Heather Hockanson, Gary Bubar, Robin Bordner, & Dianne Perukel) is working in conjunction with the Novice Driver Action Team to implement strategies set forth in the strategic highway safety plan.
- **Education – Dwight Sinila**
No Report
- **State – Anne Corgan**
Anne Corgan reported that the new Motorcycle Advisory Committee is being chaired by Dr. Jackie El-Sayed. Another item identified on the DOS near-term traffic safety initiatives is exploring the establishment of a medical advisory board. Another initiative is researching best practices of driving competency assessment tools and processes.
- **State Police – F/Lt. Thad Peterson**
 - F/Lieutenant Peterson provided copies of three different issues of their Field Update newsletter and encouraged anyone encountering traffic safety issues relevant to enforcement, to submit them for publishing consideration in future newsletters.

- A hot topic at the moment is speed limits. F/Lieutenant Peterson and other staff members are addressing road authorities around the state on how increased speed limits can assist them. The next step is to educate the public. He disputed the myth that higher speed limits correlate to faster driving by citing a study which indicated previous faster drivers drive slower than the increased speed limit and previous below speed limit drivers drive faster resulting in a more consistent traffic flow.
- **Transportation – John Friend**
 - MDOT will be providing instruction to employees in project development.
 - MDOT and MSP are working together on Quick Clearance legislation which would provide for clearing accidents and spills quicker from the roadway. The team is using benchmarks of other success state's programs in their development process. The goal of this legislation would be to reduce secondary crashes. Mr. Friend indicated he would like to present this initiative at the February GTSAC meeting in hopes of gaining GTSAC's support. F/Lt. Thad Peterson thanked the OHSP for their assistance in the investigative process of crashes. The new technology obtained has assisted the traffic crash reconstructionists with clearing accidents quicker from the roadways.
- **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Pamela Hall**

OSA is researching other forms of transportation systems for seniors since most seniors prefer a car vs. a bus to travel in. OSA is researching outside brokerage systems to partner with in this endeavor.
- **OHSP – Michael Prince**
 - The results of the You Drink, You Drive, You Lose statewide campaign have been released and indicate the campaign was very successful. Several agencies in Michigan participated resulting in 1,800 arrests for drunk driving. Three counties conducted DUI warrant sweeps during that same time frame resulting in over 300 absconders being brought in.
 - A news conference was held on November 22 to launch the new Emily Bowen public service announcement to promote the use of seat belts. This PSA has been provided to media nationally. The Montel Williams show has contacted OHSP announcing their intention to invite Emily on the show and promote the PSA.
 - The Dental Association of Michigan's campaign for seat belt use provides patients with posters, bookmarks, and toothbrushes promoting seat belt use in prevention of facial trauma.
 - In the upcoming week a group from the state of Georgia will visit Michigan to observe our traffic safety records improvements and Michigan's system to process crash data. They are very interested in what Michigan has been doing and hope to adopt similar practices in their state.
- **Local Representation – Steven Puuri (Co Rd. Comm. Assn)**

No report
- **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

Chief Stamm provided his support of MSP's Speed Limit study and their initiative to educate agencies on the correlation of speed limits with traffic safety. Chief Stamm expressed his appreciation of the UMTRI report on Cost of Crashes vs. Crime. He stated the information provided in this report will prove to be very valuable.
- **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**

Sheriff Byam expressed his well wishes for Bob Morris in his new endeavors. Sheriff Byam stated that deputies conducted a vehicle compliance check on the day before Thanksgiving which resulted in a 90% rate for drunk driving. He stated that most people don't identify this day as a heavy drinking day, but it is and the enforcement was worth the effort.

8. Legislative Report – Sgt. Matt Bolger

- Sergeant Bolger stated that only a couple of legislative issues to report on due to last legislative session of the year ending early this morning.
- Drunken Driving legislation removes the 10-year time frame for increased penalties for third offences operating while intoxicated.
- Yesterday (December 14, 2007), the Governor signed the Modulating Lights legislation which allows for modulating headlamps that are in compliance with Federal Regulations on motorcycles.

9. Action Team Reports**➤ Intersection Safety – Steve Schreier** (handout provided)

- Steve Schreier provided an overview of the action team's accomplishments and status report of initiatives outlined in their action plan.
- Red light enforcement mobilization week is scheduled for July and is the first in Michigan.
- MDOT will pilot test the "Rat Box" if the manufacturer modifies the equipment to meet MDOT standards. Monroe County has used it for two years with good results and good support from the courts. Other counties are interested in the Rat Box equipment also. The equipment costs between \$200-\$400, with local agencies performing the installation and maintenance which is reported to be very low. F/Lieutenant Peterson encourages enforcement agencies to use the equipment all of the time instead of only during mobilizations.

➤ Commercial Vehicle Safety – Dr. Jacqueline El-Sayed

- Dr. El-Sayed announced that the Michigan Truck Safety Commission's (MTSC) Annual Report has been published and is available for viewing on-line. The Annual Report depicts success in reducing truck crashes.
- The MTSC has purchased a truck simulator which would travel to a company's training site. Next week two meetings are scheduled to explain to safety partners how the simulator will be used and its benefits to companies. The "Are You Truck Smart?" continues to expand and provide awareness on how to share the road with large trucks.
- The MTSC is funding new research reports. Steve Schreier is working with Wayne State University's Transportation Research Group to conduct a study on truck driver safety belt use. Current studies report that truck drivers in Michigan exceed the national average of seat belt use. Another study being funded is with UMTRI to increase safety and reduce commercial vehicle crashes.
- Federal actions are causing funding issues which could cause a 30 percent reduction in the enforcement ranks of the Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Division which would have a major impact on truck safety. Local agencies would also be affected since many depend on reporting and training of their officers by Motor Carrier.

➤ Work Zone Safety – Brian Zimmerman (for Paul Steinman) (handout provided)

- To address the issue of educating motorists on work zone safety and speed limits, a video was produced to distribute to driver training education programs throughout the state.
- Education and training of internal MDOT members and industry in proper work zone practices was also developed and intend to expand the program to enforcement and utility agencies.

➤ Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety – Lisa Grost & Deirdre Thompson

- Lisa Grost reported on MDOT's one year study of pedestrian safety crossings is being conducted in 25 locations. The results of this study will be used in other areas of the state to promote pedestrian awareness.
- Using countdown signals on walk lights for pedestrians is deemed educational for the public.

10. GTSAC Award Recommendations and Approval – Debbie Savage (handout in packet)

Debbie Savage reported that 22 traffic safety award nominations were received of which 10 very worthy recipients were selected to receive the awards. Discussion was held concerning allowing submissions received after the deadline could be considered. The consensus was not to accept nominations that have not been through the selection screening process. Mr. Morris requested a motion to accept the nominees presented by the committee. Motion was made by Chief Stamm and seconded by Ms. Hall. A vote resulted eight yes votes and one abstention.

11. SHSP Peer Exchange – Kathy Farnum

Peer exchange focuses on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan implementation. Ms. Farnum will be attending a Peer Exchange meeting in February in California along with representatives from MDOT and the FHWA.

12. 2007 Traffic Safety Summit Update – Anne Readett

The expanded three-day Traffic Safety Summit includes many exciting and dynamic workout sessions. Ms. Readett believes this year's Summit will provide a broader appeal and offers many new session not offered in the past.

GTSAC Administrative Items

13. 2007 GTSAC Meeting Schedule

The 2007 meeting schedule was accepted by all Commissioners.

14. Other Business

None

Next Meeting is 8:30 a.m., February 23, 2007, in the Collins Centre Presentation Room.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

2007 Meeting Schedule

February 23, 2007
(GTSAC Awards Banquet – March 15, 2007)
April 20, 2007
June 22, 2007
August 24, 2007
October 26, 2007
December 14, 2007